United Nations A/C.2/64/5

General Assembly

Distr.: General
14 October 2009
English
Original: French

Sixty-fourth session
Second Committee
Agenda item 56 (b)
Groups of countries in special situations: specific actions related to the particular needs and problems of landlocked developing countries: outcome of the International Ministerial Conference of Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries and Donor Countries and International Financial and Development Institutions on Transit Transport Cooperation

Letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to attach the text of the rules of procedure adopted by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries at their eighth annual meeting, held on 25 September 2009 in New York (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this text circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 56 (b).

(*Signed*) Oumar **Daou**
Permanent Representative

09-55725 (E) 231009 261009

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 5 October 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Mali to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English]

Rules of Procedure of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries

1. Membership and observer status

1.1. The Group of Landlocked Developing Countries is composed of 31 developing Member States of the United Nations that have no seacoast, as defined in article 124 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (see appendix for the list of Member States).[1]

1.2. The Group may grant observer status to other United Nations Member States that are landlocked, in accordance with the definition contained in article 124 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

1.3. Any landlocked country that is a Member State of the United Nations and that wishes to participate in the work of the Group shall do so by writing to the Group's Chairperson. The Chairperson shall submit the request to the Group for consideration.

2. Objective

2.1. The Group shall provide the means for its member States to articulate and promote their collective economic interests, including, in particular, the effective implementation of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries, in order to enhance their joint negotiating capacity on major international economic issues within the United Nations system, the World Trade Organization and all international and multilateral forums.

2.2. The attention of the Group shall be directed primarily at achieving the best terms for the Group in resolutions, declarations, plans of action and other decisions of the United Nations General Assembly, international summits, conventions and conferences. The Group shall try to obtain concessions, facilities and additional financial resources and technical assistance from transit developing countries, donor countries, the United Nations system and other international and regional development, economic, social and financial institutions.

[1] The delegation of the Plurinational State of Bolivia underscored the special situation of its country with regard to its transitory maritime condition as defined in article 124 of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea.

3. Decision-making

3.1. The Group shall take decisions based on consensus.

3.2. A presence of two thirds of the membership of the Group shall be required for the purposes of electing a new Bureau.

4. Bureau, Chairmanship and responsibilities

4.1. The Group shall elect seven members of the Bureau from among the representatives of its members according to the following geographical distribution:

Three representatives of member States from Africa

Two representatives of member States from Asia

One representative of member States from Eastern Europe

One representative of member States from Latin America

4.2. The Group shall elect a Chairperson from among the Bureau members based on the principle of geographical rotation.

4.3. The term of office of the Chairperson and Bureau of the Group shall be for a period of two years.

4.4. The primary task of the Chairperson shall be to chair all meetings of the Group and coordinate the Group's actions. The Chairperson shall act as spokesperson for the Group and represent the common views of the Group in the intergovernmental meetings of the United Nations system and all international and multilateral forums.

4.5. The Chairperson may ask a member of the Bureau to serve as an acting Chairperson during his or her absence, if necessary.

4.6. The Bureau may appoint any of its members as coordinators on specific substantive issues, such as, inter alia, international trade, financing for development and climate change.

5. Annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs

The annual meeting of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Group of Landlocked Developing Countries shall be convened, as appropriate, at the beginning of the regular session of the General Assembly of the United Nations in New York.

6. Meetings of ministers responsible for trade and transport infrastructure

6.1. Periodically, meetings of the ministers responsible for trade of the landlocked developing countries shall be convened, as appropriate, to consult on and coordinate the Group's position on trade-related issues of interest to the Group, including the negotiations at the World Trade Organization.

6.2. Periodically, meetings of the ministers responsible for transport infrastructure of the landlocked developing countries shall be convened, as appropriate.

6.3. Ad hoc ministerial meetings of landlocked developing countries may be convened, as appropriate, to consult on the Group's position on other development issues of major interest to the Group.

Appendix

Group of Landlocked Developing Countries: composition by region (as at April 2009)

Africa

1. Botswana
2. Burkina Faso
3. Burundi
4. Central African Republic
5. Chad
6. Ethiopia
7. Lesotho
8. Malawi
9. Mali
10. Niger
11. Rwanda
12. Swaziland
13. Uganda
14. Zambia
15. Zimbabwe

Asia

16. Afghanistan
17. Bhutan
18. Kazakhstan
19. Kyrgyzstan
20. Lao People's Democratic Republic
21. Mongolia
22. Nepal
23. Tajikistan
24. Turkmenistan
25. Uzbekistan

Eastern Europe

26. Armenia
27. Azerbaijan
28. Republic of Moldova
29. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Latin America

30. Paraguay
31. Plurinational State of Bolivia

Current composition of the Bureau

Chairperson: Mali
Vice-Chairpersons: Kazakhstan and Paraguay

Observers to the Group

Switzerland (Geneva-based Group)